



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Chuck Clarke, Director

March 16, 2004

Dear Northgate Stakeholder Group Member,

The City Council has given Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) the responsibility of analyzing various options for a natural system and open space recommendation for the south lot of Northgate Mall. This is an important piece of the work for the stakeholder group. I regret that I am not able to attend your first meeting; however I commit to involve you in the evaluation of options for the south lot and developing our recommendation for the City Council.

We have been asked to evaluate three options for integrating natural drainage strategies and open space at Northgate's south lot. In addition, the analysis will also consider a "no action" alternative. From SPU's perspective, the recommended alternative must address the following key factors:

- Provide a measurable water quality or flow benefit to creek,
- Provide a cost-effective approach which includes consideration of both environmental and social benefits, and
- Must not pose unnecessary risk to the utility or the community.

My staff and I look forward to discussing our evaluation process with you over the next few months. We will use a rigorous analytical approach that considers life-cycle costs balanced with benefits to the drainage ratepayers, to the extent that drainage funds are used for this project. Given the quick schedule we've been asked to follow, here is our idea about how we can work together through the analysis and evaluation:

3/18	1st Stakeholder Group meeting: Overview of the three options, evaluation process, and role of the stakeholder group
4/20	2nd meeting: Presentation of alternatives analysis
5/11	3rd meeting: Stakeholder group input on alternatives analysis
5/20	4th meeting: Final analysis with presentation of recommendations
6/3	5th meeting: Stakeholder group input on recommendation
June	Recommendation forwarded to City Council.

We will work with you to review the evaluation method, analysis results, and draft recommendation. In addition, a consultant team that includes firms involved in developing the options (SvR, Gaynor Inc., and PACE Engineering), plus a firm with water quality expertise (Herrera Environmental Consulting) will help review the technical and financial assumptions and methods underlying the analysis. The process and schedule are set to allow us to hear from you and respond before each successive step and

hear your thoughts before we transmit our final recommendation to the Mayor's Office and Council.

We are very encouraged by the stakeholder process and your input is a critical component of our decision-making process to hear and respond to your input. SPU is committed to protecting and enhancing Thornton Creek and we look forward to presenting a recommendation that furthers this important goal for the Northgate community.

Sincerely,

(signature on file)

Chuck Clarke, Director